percent duty from 01.04.2008. Refined, Bleached and Deodorised (RBD) Palmolein and Palm oil are allowed for import at 7.5% duty. The import of Palm oil and Palmolein is allowed at 'Zero' duty to meet the gap between demand and supply of edible oils in the country and to ensure availability of edible oil at reasonable prices to the consumers.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government of Kerala has requested the Government of India on 25th of June 2009 to reimpose import duty on ' Palm oil. However, in order to keep the domestic edible oil prices at affordable levels and within reach of the common man, at present there is no proposal to increase import duty on Palmolein and Palm oil.

Dilution upto 25 per cent in use of jute bags

*173. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is allowing a dilution of upto 25 per cent in the use of jute bags for packaging foodgrains meant for Government procurement;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how it would protect the environment?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) to (c) Government is mandated to provide reservation of products for compulsory packaging in jute under the Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory use in Packaging Commodity) Act, 1987 (JPM Act). Under the said Act, Government has been specifying the products and percentage for compulsory packaging in jute separately for each year, considering the recommendations of Standing Advisory Committee (SAC), constituted under the JPM Act. SAC looks into all the relevant issues like availability of raw jute, capacity of jute industry, the likely demand and other such issues before making a recommendation. Proposal for deciding the products and percentage of reservation for compulsory packaging in jute for the jute year 2009-10 (July-June) is under consideration.

Whenever there is shortage of supply of jute bags, Ministry resorts to providing exemptions from the reservation in order to meet the demand of packaging material.

The Government considers the use of Jute as environmentally friendly because it is biodegradable, reusable and environmentally sustainable. Therefore, providing for compulsory packaging of certain products in jute protects the environment.

Recommendations of Prabhu Committee on Commodity Boards

*174. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what were the findings and recommendations of the Prabhu Committee that was set up to look into the performance of Commodity Boards;

(b) whether Government has taken a final view on the recommendations;